Sorting out the William Sathams in Early Georgia

This is an attempt to sort out the four different William Sathams found in early Georgia records, beginning in the late 1700s.

It does not include **William Dabney Statham**, the grandson Love Statham named in his 1781 will, since there is no evidence he ever went to Georgia. He was on tax lists in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1792 and 1793 and in Fluvanna County from 1794 to 1836. He is not the William named in John Statham's 1823 will.

William, son of Charles S. Statham

1. This is likely the William Statham found on the Wilkes County tax lists from 1791 to 1794:
    a. Love Statham, another son of Charles, was found in the same Captain's district from 1791 to 1793. This district was later part of Lincoln County when it was created in 1796. Tax digests for 1788 and 1789 have not survived except for a few defaulters lists[1] but a William Statum/Statam served as chain carrier in July 1790 on two Wilkes County surveys for Richard Davenport.[2]

    b. Wilkes County deed records show that William purchased 100 acres on Mill Creek waters "where William Statem now lives" in May 1794, which William and Jenny Statham sold in December 1794.[3]

2. This William is found continuously in Lincoln County records from 1802 until his death there on 3 November 1822.[4]

William, son of John Statham

1. The three census records on which he appears yield a birth year range of 1770 to 1780 but he was born no later than 1761 as he made his first appearance on the Albemarle County, Virginia tax list as an independent tithable (age 21 or over) in 1782, the earliest extant tax list.

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[1] Wilkes County tax digests, via *Virtual Vault*, Georgia Archives (https://www.georgiaarchives.org/); also, Frank Parker Hudson, *Wilkes County, Georgia Tax Records, 1785-1805* (Atlanta: Frank Parker Hudson, 1996).
[2] Crumpton Plats (http://crumptonplats.com).
[3] Wilkes County, Georgia Deed Book MM, pp. 396-399, FHL no. 8153376, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org); these records were saved from the original microfilm but digitized images are now viewable at an FHC.
[4] *Georgia Journal (Milledgeville, Ga.)*, 19 November 1822, p. 3, Georgia Historic Newspapers (https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/).

2. He may have been born earlier than that as a William Statham was signatory to the 21 April 1779 Albemarle County Declaration of Independence.[5] The legal age for signing petitions at the time is unknown but if it was 21, then he was born by 1758.[6]

3. William gave an affidavit on the recent elections in Washington County, Georgia in 1791[7] and along with his brother Charles was shown in militia lists there in 1793.[8] He owned real estate in Jefferson County according to a 1799 tax list and an 1800 fifa notice[9] but the land may have been located originally in Washington (a burned county), one of several counties from which Jefferson was formed in 1796. William was a resident of Washington County when he registered for the land lotteries in 1805[10] and 1807.[11]

4. In December 1807, William Statem of Wilkison County (sic) sold the land he'd drawn in the 1807 lottery.[12] He remained in Wilkinson through at least 1827. when he registered for the land lottery[13] and gave his son John power of attorney to act for him with regard to the estate of his father John Statham.[14] As of the 1830 census he was living in Houston County and the following year he paid taxes there on the land he had drawn in the 1827 lottery.[15] His will was exhibited in Houston's Inferior Court "sitting as an ordinary court" on 7 September 1846.[16]

William, son of Robert and grandson of John Statham

1. Robert Statam, a 55-year-old native of Virginia, died in Savannah, Georgia (Chatham County) in February 1820.[17]

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[5] Edgar Woods, *Albemarle County in Virginia* (Charlottesville, Va.: The Michie Co., 1901), 366.
[6] Correspondence with Library of Virginia Archives Reference Services, <archdesk@lva.virginia.gov>, 15 November 2017.
[7] *Augusta Chronicle & Gazette*, 17 December 1791, p. 3, col. 2, Georgia Historic Newspapers.
[8] Georgia military records, 1775-1842, p. 107, image 202, FHL no. 8139111, FamilySearch.
[9] Jefferson County, Georgia 1799 Tax Digest, p. 29; County Records on Microfilm, via Virtual Vault, Georgia Archive; and *The Louisville (Ga.) Gazette and Republican Trumpet*, 17 Jun 1800, p. 4, col. 3, Georgia Historic Newspapers.
[10] Marie De Lamar and Elisabeth Rothstein, compilers, *Records of Washington County, Georgia* (1975; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000), p. 38.
[11] Paul K. Graham, abstractor, *1807 Georgia Land Lottery Fortunate Drawers and Grantees* (Decatur, Georgia: The Genealogy Co., 2011), p. 37.
[12] Jones County, Georgia Deed Book A, pp. 121-122, image 81, FamilySearch. This tract was originally in Baldwin County and part of the land distributed in the 1807 lottery.
[13]"Georgia Land Lottery, 1827," Ancestry.com; as William Statham and also as William Straham. William qualified despite having drawn land in previous lotteries because he was identified in several records as a Revolutionary War veteran. No military or related records have so far been found for him.
[14] Elbert County, Georgia Deed Book U, p. 199, Elbert County Clerk's Office, Elberton.
[15] Houston County, Georgia Tax Digest, 1831-1835, image 31; FHL no. 102010120, FamilySearch.
[16] Houston County, Georgia, Inferior Court minutes, ordinary purposes, v. b, 1836-1852, images 188 (date) and 190, FHL no. 102010110, FamilySearch.
[17] "Savannah, Georgia Vital Records, 1803-1966," Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com).

2. In 1810, as nearest kin of Susannah Manning, Robert and Ann Statham had applied for letters of administration on her estate;[18] this was Ann's mother, who married Mathias Manning after the death of Ann's father, John Whitley.[19]

3. Ann Statham, widow, and William Statham, orphan, were residents of the same captain's district in Chatham County when they registered for the 1821 lottery.[20]

4. In October 1821, Ann Statham made a deed gift to her son William Statham and daughter Susannah Kirk.[21]

5. William was born between 1800 and 1810 according to the 1840 census for Chatham County (indexed as Staliham), the only census and the last record so far found for him.

William, likely son of Jesse and grandson of John Statham

1. In her widow's pension application, Sarah Statum said that William was born in Elbert County, Georgia; enlisted in Elberton when he was 18 years old; and died in Jefferson County, Alabama in September 1855. A pension office review shows that he served in the Seminole War with the Georgia Militia, Capt. Ashley's Co., from February to May 1818.[22] William Statum married Sally Early in Jefferson County in 1826 and this is the earliest he has so far been found there.[23]

2. Jesse was the only son of John Statham who remained in Elbert County as long as his father was living; this factors into the conclusion that William was his son along with records found for William in Elbert County through 1821: William was an Ensign with the Elbert County Militia from September 1819 to September 1820;[24] William and James Statham witnessed a deed in 1821;[25] and William and John Statham registered there for the 1821 land lottery.[26] There is a good bit of indirect evidence that both James and John were also Jesse's sons.[27]

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[18] *The Republican ; and Savannah evening ledger*, 11 December 1810, p. 2, col. 1, Georgia Historic Newspapers.
[19] "Georgia Marriages to 1850," Ancestry.com.
[20] "1821 Land Lottery," Georgia USGenWeb Archives Project (http://usgwarchives.net/ga/galand.htm).
[21] Chatham County, Georgia Deed Book 2L, p. 398, image 211, FHL no. 8564917, FamilySearch.
[22] Sarah Statum, widow's pension application no. 29,773 (Rejected), for service of William Statum (Pvt., Capt. Ashley's Co., Ga. Militia, War of 1812); Record Group 15; National Archives-Washington, D.C. Her application was rejected because his service was not in the War of 1812, it was in the Seminole (or Florida) War: Compiled service record, William Statham aka Statum, Pvt., 2d Regt. (Little's) Georgia Militia, Seminole War (1817-1818); Fold3 (http://www.fold3.com).
[23] "Alabama, County Marriages, 1805-1967," Ancestry.com.
[24] General Name File, via *Virtual Vault*, Georgia Archives.
[25] Michal Martin Farmer, *Elbert County, Georgia Deed Books S-W, 1820-1835* (Dallas, Tex.: Farmer Genealogy Co., 1998), p. 40.
[26] "The official history of Elbert County, 1790-1935," Ancestry.com.
[27] For more information on Jesse and Eady (Duncan) Statham's descendants, see *Book of Stathams* by this compiler, pp. 73-89.